

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Lauren Footman, Executive Director,**  
**[info@ecvndelaware.org](mailto:info@ecvndelaware.org)**  
**484-432-3369**

### **End Community Violence Now: Expanding Our Reach to Southern Delaware to Continue the Fight for Safer Communities**

[Laurel, DE] – January 13, 2025 – End Community Violence Now (ECVN), a statewide initiative focused on reducing community gun violence throughout Delaware, is now bringing its efforts to Southern Delaware after a successful launch in Wilmington on December 10, 2024. With a commitment to ensuring that every part of the state is engaged in the fight against gun violence, ECVN is now making its presence felt in the communities of Southern Delaware that have been significantly impacted by violence.

#### **Join ECVN for Our Visit to Southern Delaware**

**Date:** *Friday, January 17, 2025*

**Time:** *10:30 am – 12:30 pm*

**Location:** *1042 West Sixth Street, Laurel, DE 19956*

In December, ECVN successfully launched its initiative in Wilmington, bringing together survivors, community leaders, healthcare providers, and government officials to address the growing issue of gun violence. Now, ECVN is continuing to expand its reach, with a special focus on communities in Southern Delaware that have been grappling with increasing levels of violence.

“Our work didn't stop at the launch; it was just the beginning,” said **Lauren Footman**, Executive Director of ECVN. “We want to ensure that every corner of Delaware is represented in this effort, especially the communities in Southern Delaware that have been experiencing high rates of violence. It's critical that we continue our coordinated efforts to support those most impacted and work alongside local leaders to create sustainable, long-term solutions.”

The event in Laurel will focus on meeting with community leaders, survivors, local organizations, and other key stakeholders to discuss the unique challenges facing Southern Delaware. ECVN aims to build on the existing coordinated efforts across the state to address gun violence while ensuring that the voices of those most affected are heard.

"As someone from Southern Delaware, I understand the unique challenges our communities face with gun violence," said Amy Handy, Vice Chair of ECVN. "ECVN serves as an equalizer, ensuring that every part of Delaware—regardless of size or location—has access to the resources and support needed to address this critical issue. By deepening our connections with local leaders and residents here in Southern Delaware, we can work together to build a unified, statewide approach to reducing violence and creating safer, stronger communities."

ECVN's statewide approach integrates prevention, intervention, and healing strategies, and aims to address the systemic factors contributing to violence, including lack of resources, fragmented services, and insufficient funding. By working in partnership ECVN is creating a sustainable ecosystem for reducing gun violence across Delaware through private public partnership .

For more information, contact:

Email: *[info@ecvndelaware.org](mailto:info@ecvndelaware.org)*

Together, we can create a safer, more unified Delaware for all.